## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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The Utah State Courts are committed to open, fair, and independent justice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 29, 2005

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## JUVENILE COURT RESTITUTION PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

The Utah State Juvenile Court Restitution Program has been recognized with a Crime Victims Service Award for work in assisting victims in Juvenile Court. The Utah Council on Victims of Crime presented the award April 18, 2005.

The restitution program is administered by the Restorative Justice Committee, which was formed in 1984 to oversee juvenile work crews and develop policy and procedures in regards to their operation. Through the years, the committee has expanded its oversight to ensure that victims and the community are paid back, and that victims' issues are recognized and respectfully addressed.

A victims subcommittee was formed in 1990 that has developed uniform victim restitution letters and victim impact statements that are sent to victims of a juvenile offense. In addition, the subcommittee has created a victims rights informational brochure, hired victim coordinators in the eight judicial districts, developed a victims website, and worked to pass legislation to improve services to victims. Since it's inception, the subcommittee has been responsible for some far-reaching changes in attitudes and policies in regards to victims' issues as well as educating others on victims' issues.

The Restorative Justice Committee is comprised of the following members: Natalie Kelker, chair, Carolyn Anderson, Howard Baysinger, Marlene Brown, Brett Folkman, Kyle Goudie, Paul Herpin, Brent Johnson, Bart Mackay, Kyle Memmott, Albert Phipps, Wendell Roberts, Peggy Rowley, Carey Seals, Alex Seumanutusa, Julee Smith, and Shelly Waite.